Shirting of H.Q. of ONGC

429. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all major activities of ONGC and its interaction with Petroleum Department takes place in Delhi quite frequently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many senior Officers of the level of CMD are always available in Delhi;

(c) if so, whether it is not a waste of public fund to maintain the huge Tel Bhavan at Dehradun and operate from Delhi; and

(d) what action is being taken to shift the Headquarters of ONGC to NCT Delhi to save valuable funds which is otherwise wasted in maintaining twin establishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Major activities of ONGC take place at various locations in the country where exploration and production of oil and gas is carried out. ONGC's interaction with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas takes place in Delhi.

(b) CMD and other functional Directors of ONGC are available in Delhi as and when required.

(c) The operations of ONGC Ltd. are performed at different workcentres spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. The office of ONGC at Tel Bhavan continues to be the Head Office of ONGC Ltd. and has all major support data base required to carry out the administrative functions as well as coordination of the operations of the company.

(d) There is no proposal from ONGC Ltd. to shift its Head Office from Dehradun to Delhi.

Ratio of population and LPG consumers

430. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of population and the LPG consumers in the country, Statewise, and

(b) the reasons for the ujieveness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Statewise ratio of population (as per last 1991 census) and the LPG consumers (as on 1.10.98) in the country is given in Statement *(See* below)

(b) Depending upon the product availability, LPG Marketing was confined to urban areas to begin with. As alternative and traditional fuels like firewood/cowdung availability became scarce in urban areas, in the first instance, towns with a population of 20,000 and above were considered for feasibility studies for setting up of distributorships. All such towns found feasible for setting up of economically viable distributorships were rostered in the Marketing Plans and distributors appointed through the prescribed selection criteria. Since the supply of LPG is mostly in the urban areas in the country and assuming an average of 30% urban population, the total coverage of urban areas by LPG supply on the basis of 1991 census and the total number of connections of 340 lakhs now, is estimated as 67%. However, the Government have taken a decision to extend LPG Marketing to rural areas during the IX Plan period. Accordingly, in the period 1996—98, LPG Marketing Plan, a large number of locations have been rostered to cater to predominantly rural areas and also covering all urban locations. With this, it would be possible to cater to a large section of the urban and rural population in all the States in the country.

Statement

State	Total Polulation as per 1991 census (in lakhs)	Households with LPG connections as on 1.10.98 (in lakhs)	Percentage of households with LPG total population	% Population (as per 1991 census) covered for LPG supplies
Andhra Pradesh	665.08	27.07	4.07	20.35
Arunachal Pradesh	8.65	0.47	5.46	27.29
Assam	223.14	4.90	2.19	10.93
Bihar	863.74	9.88	1.14	5.72
Delhi	94.21	20.43	21.69	108.43
Goa	11.70	2.03	17.38	86.91
Gujarat	413.10	25.37	6.14	30.71
Haryana	164.64	10.45	6.35	31.74
Himachal Pradesh	51.71	5.81	11.24	56.20
Jammu & Kashmir	77.19	5.03	6.52	32.61
Karnataka	449.77	17.89	3.98	19.89
Kerala	290.99	13.07	4.49	22.45
Madhya Pradesh	661.81	17.2	2.57	12.86
Maharashtra	789.37	54.52	6.91	34.54
Manipur	18.37	0.86	4.66	23.31
Meghalaya	17.75	0.47	2.67	13.34
Mizoram	6.90	0.76	10.99	54.94
Nagaland	12.10	0.42	3.48	17.41
Orissa	316.60	4.39	1.39	6.94
Punjab	202.82	14.04	6.92	34.60
Rajasthan	440.06	13.44	•3.05	15.27
Sikkim	4.06	0.29	7.23	36.17
Tamil Nadu	558.59	26.84	4.81	24.03
Tripura	27.57	0.59	2.15	10.73
Uttar Pradesh	1391.12	43.28	3.11	15.56
West Bengal	680.78	18.16	2.67	13.34
Andaman & Nicobar	2.81	0.11	4.04	20.21
Chandigarh	6.42	1.64	25.53	127.63
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.38	0.06	4.50	22.48
Daman & Diu	1.02	0.12	12.03	60.14
Lakshadweep	0.52	0.01	2.84	14.18
Pondicherry	8.08	0.63	7.76	38.79

Note: % LPG coverage vis-a-vis population as per 1991 census has been assessed based on an average 5 members per household.